

Amendment
Serial No. 09/980,659
Attorney Docket No. 062017

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (New): An impulse heat sealer comprising:

- a. a power source;
- b. a heater circuit connected to the power source;
- c. a press mechanism adapted to effect sealing and material supporting functions; and
- d. a heating wire made of a thin plate of electrically high resistance metal comprising:
 - i. a heat generating portion, wherein the heat generating portion is in unitary width and,
 - ii. electrode portions, wherein the heating wire being of unitary construction, self-supporting and adapted to receive current from the power source through the electrode portions, the electrode portions are defined by shoulders that are non-symmetrical with respect to the longitudinal axis of

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the heating wire; and the electrode portions are wider than the heat generating portion.

Claim 26 (New): The impulse heat sealer of claim 25, wherein the upper electrode portion of the heating wire is longer than the lower electrode portion of the same heating wire.

Claim 27 (New): An impulse heat sealer comprising:

- a. a power source;
- b. a heater circuit connected to the power source;
- c. a press mechanism adapted to effect sealing and material supporting functions; and
- d. a heating wire made of a thin plate of electrically high resistance metal comprising:
 - i. a heat generating portion, wherein the heat generating portion comprises a series of zigzags and gaps, arranged in a single planar relationship in such a way that substantially all the generated heat is dissipated in that plane alone to effect a continuous heat seal on the material being sealed and,

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- ii. electrode portions, wherein the heating wire being of unitary construction, self-supporting and adapted to receive current from the power source through the electrode portions.

Claim 28 (New): The impulse heat sealer of claim 27, wherein the zigzag is interrupted immediately before the electrode portions at both ends thereof and is restored to the original width of the electrode portions.

Claim 29 (New): The impulse heat sealer of claim 27, wherein the heating wire is fixed while expanded on the press mechanism so as to absorb the expansion and contraction of the wire due to heat.

Claim 30 (New): A heating wire for use of an impulse heat sealer made of a thin plate of electrically high resistance metal comprising:

- a. a heat generating portion, wherein the heat generating portion is in unitary width and,
- b. electrode portions, wherein the heating wire being of unitary construction, self-supporting and adapted to receive current from the power source through the electrode portions, the electrode portions are defined by shoulders that are non-

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symmetrical with respect to the longitudinal axis of the heating wire; and the electrode portions are wider than the heat generating portion.

Claim 31 (New): The heating wire of claim 25, wherein the upper electrode portion of the heating wire is longer than the lower electrode portion of the same heating wire.

Claim 32 (New): A heating wire for use of an impulse heat sealer made of a thin plate of electrically high resistance metal comprising:

- a. a heat generating portion, wherein the heat generating portion comprises a series of zigzags and gaps, arranged in a single planar relationship in such a way that substantially all the generated heat is dissipated in that plane alone to effect a continuous heat seal on the material being sealed and,
- b. electrode portions, wherein the heating wire being of unitary construction, self-supporting and adapted to receive current from the power source through the electrode portions.

Claim 33 (New): The heating wire claim 32, wherein the zigzag is interrupted immediately before the electrode portions at both ends thereof and is restored to the original width of the electrode portions.

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Claim 34 (New): The heating wire claim 32, wherein the heating wire is fixed while expanded on the press mechanism so as to absorb the expansion and contraction of the wire due to heat.